

## Message Text

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03700 131044Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 H-01 TRSE-00 INSE-00 VO-05

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /054 W

-----039461 131054Z/10

P 131034Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7748

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 03700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TW, VM, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEMARCHE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 140875

1. ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, ACCCOMPANIED BY COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN AND MADE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. I PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED DISTURBING AND CONTINUING INCREASE IN NUMBER OF BOAT REFUGEES AND URGED ADMITTANCE FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN TAIWAN OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBER ETHNIC CHINESE BOAT REFUGEES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, SPECIFICALLY TO ALLOW ALL OF 600 PRESENTLY IN THAILAND TO RESETTLE PERMANENTLY IN TAIWAN AND TO ALLOW ADMISSION TO TAIWAN FOR RESETTLEMENT OF FUTURE ETHNIC CHINESE ARRIVING THERE. I ALSO OFFERED U.S. COOPERATION IN PROCESSING, ETC. TO FACILITATE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS. AT CONCLUSION MEETING I LEFT INFORMAL AIDE MEMOIRE COPY OF WHICH IS BEING POUCHED.

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2. MINISTER SHEN AFTER LENGTHY REVIEW GROC REFUGEE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES SAID THAT OUR REQUEST CONCERNING 600 BOAT REFUGEES FROM THAILAND WILL BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION; HE NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED HESITATION ABOUT GROC BEING ABLE TO MAKE "OPEN-ENDED" COMMITMENT FOR RESETTLEMENT ETHNIC CHINESE BOAT REFUGEES FROM THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

3. SHEN FIRST DESCRIBED GROC CONTINUING PROGRAM FOR GRANTING OF REFUGEE TO BOAT CASES REACHING TAIWAN. THIS

RELATES TO "FIRST COUNTRY" ASYLUM ON TAIWAN AND ALSO  
RESETTLEMENT OF BOAT REFUGEES OF CHINESE ORIGIN ARRIVING  
TAIWAN AS DESCRIBED IN EARLIER MESSAGES. MINISTER SHEN  
STATED ARRIVALS FROM BEGINNING OF PROGRAM UNTIL PRESENT  
TOTAL ABOUT 221, INCLUDING 33 OVER PAST WEEK. (FULLER  
DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.)

4. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN DESCRIBED STATUS AND PROSPECTS  
OF PROGRAM WHICH IS MANAGED WITH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS  
HELP. THIS PROGRAM HAS IN MAY AND JUNE THUS FAR MOVED  
FROM SAIGON VIA BANGKOK TO TAIWAN ABOUT 300 MORE  
DOCUMENTED ROC NATIONALS. SHEN ANTICIPATES ABOUT 1500  
ADDITIONAL PERSONS WILL BE CARED FOR IN THIS PROGRAM IF  
IT CAN CONTINUE TO COMPLETION. HE STRONGLY URGED WE  
TREAT PROGRAM AS CONFIDENTIAL SINCE SVR MIGHT WELL TURN IT  
OFF IF IT IS GIVEN PUBLICITY. (FURTHER DETAILS THIS  
PROGRAM ALSO WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.) I ACKNOWLEDGED  
CONTRIBUTION THIS PROGRAM IS MAKING BUT NOTED THAT IT  
RELATES TO ROC'S OWN CITIZENS WHOM THEY NATURALLY WOULD  
BE REPATRIATING BUT UNFORTUNATELY DOES NOT ALLEVIATE  
EMERGENCY PROBLEM OF BOAT REFUGEES.

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5. IN PRESENTING GROC POSITION FOREIGN MINISTER SEVERAL  
TIMES EMPHASIZED HIS COUNTRY'S VULNERABILITY WITH REGARD  
TO RECEIVING ETHNIC CHINESE FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HE  
EXPLAINED HOW IN THE PAST GROC HAS HAD TO RESIST EFFORTS  
TO EFFECT REPATRIATION FROM THAT REGION OF NUMBERS WHICH  
COULD EASILY SWAMP TAIWAN. HE REITERATED GROC WILL GIVE  
CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO OUR REQUEST BUT WANTED TO EXPLAIN  
THIS AMONG OTHER DIFFICULTIES THEY FACED IN THIS CONNECTION  
AND NEED TO AVOID SETTING DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. IN  
CONCLUSION I AGAIN EMPHASIZED EMERGENCY NATURE OF BOAT  
REFUGEE SITUATION AND RISK THAT IF ALL CONCERNED DID NOT  
COOPERATE IN MEETING PROBLEM WE MIGHT AGAIN FIND  
TEMPORARY REFUGE PROVIDED BY THAILAND AND OTHERS CLOSED  
OFF AND SHIP CAPTAINS AGAIN UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO  
HELP. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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